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published for SAFS 104
 by JoeD Siclari of 1607
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INTRODUCTION:

This fanzine is brought to you by JoeD Siclari, an excellent example of human procrastination.

Actually, I never procrastinate without a purpose, only when I am delaying something which should be done today.

Having spent the last five and one half years in Tallahassee (except for a rare weekend), I am slightly out-of-touch with the real world. I seem to recall, way-back-when, a place called Fort Lauderdale, and, even further back, mythological New York, New York. But I'm not certain.

PURPOSE:

If it has a purpose, this zine is to publish the meanderings, reminiscences, opinions and misinterpretations of its publisher (also writer, editor, etc.):

FACTS:

JoeD Siclari is 25 years old, approximately 58-8" ~~wide~~ tall, 165 lbs ss # [REDACTED], Driver liscence S24648449282910, and the great American companies, Gulf, Texaco, etc., all have their own pet number for me.

SHORT BIOGRAPHY:

I was born in 1949 and lived the first 16 years of my life on Staten Island, N.Y. You all have heard of the world famous St. Staten Island Ferry.

I had a Catholic upbringing. That's religion not universal. Although now I am not so certain about religion, the education I received from the Sisters of Charity and the Jesuit priests was definitely excellent and broad. When I first came to Florida, my junior year in high school, I was over a year ahead in most subjects and I coasted along to graduation. And I was in an advanced and "progressive" school. Of course, this also hints at the state of

education in Florida.

Educationally, my ninth and tenth years in school were interesting. I attended Xavier High School on the edge of Greenwich Village in New York City. Xavier is a Jesuit Gay military school. That's right, military, junior ROTC. Who says religion and government don't mix in this country.

That covers my first 16 years except for the fact that my father ran a store that sold candy, toys (large and small), comic books, magazines, books, ice cream, and many other things that children love. I HATED IT! Any half-witted kid can get super-saturated with heaven. Especially when he has to work there.

More some other time.

INTERESTS:

Rivalling my interest in SF lately has been an ever expanding pre-occupation with films, all kinds of films from silent to current, experimental to professional, both foreign and domestic. Until last November I had managed and done a great deal of the programming for the film series shown at F.S.U. for the last three years. In that period our program became one of the largest, most varied, high level programs in the country. We bought in about 500 films a year, including about 400 features on a \$75,000. budget. With all that money to spend how could I not get interested.

I am also a SF collector. All types of material are in the boxes in my closet or on shelves along my walls, pulps, digests, paperbacks, hardbacks, films, film advertising, radio shows, comic books, newspaper comic strips, fanzines and miscellaneous other items. All are SF oriented.

Now that I am thinking about it, I can simplify by stating that I am interested in all types of mass entertainment media, especially when it deals with SF.

MEMBERINGS:

At Florida State University, where I am currently going to school, we have a student run Center for Participant Education. This is based on the theory of Free School for those who want to learn on the courses they want.

About three years ago there were some Science Fiction courses but none of them were very good. I knew one girl who had a class and made some suggestions to her and lent her some reference material. She had never seen any SF reference material except a few of Samoskowitz's books. I guess she read the box I gave her but it didn't do the class any good. None of the other student teachers seemed to know much more than she did about the field but they thought they did and that was the problem. They usually ended up in old rehashings about DUNE or

STRANGER or Vonnegut or some other currently popular fad or worst of all, on the teacher's own pet writer who was otherwise completely unknown to the class. The girl I was talking about was a Norton freak another thought John Campbell was God. All the classes died quickly, thankfully.

But last quarter a graduate student in Communications ran a course on THE VAMPIRE IN THE MASS MEDIA. I was unable to attend any of the classes because of work conflicts but some friends told me that the class was interesting and informative and people were going regularly (regular attendance, or rather a lack of, is the main problem that CPE faces after getting knowledgeable teachers). Class size ranged from 35 to 85, with about 25 attending regularly.

This success inspired me to get a little more interested in CPE and this summer I have spent quite a bit of my spare time arranging for a course which would combine my two favorite hobbies, SF and film. Plans are not finalized yet but expectations are high for me to have a course this Fall Quarter.

The course will be entitled Science Fiction in the Mass Media to keep in line with the previous course. Science Fiction which has been adapted to some mass medium will be analyzed and I hope to give some information on methods used and how special effects can help or ruin a show or film.

Planned to be covered so far are the following:

A) Films:

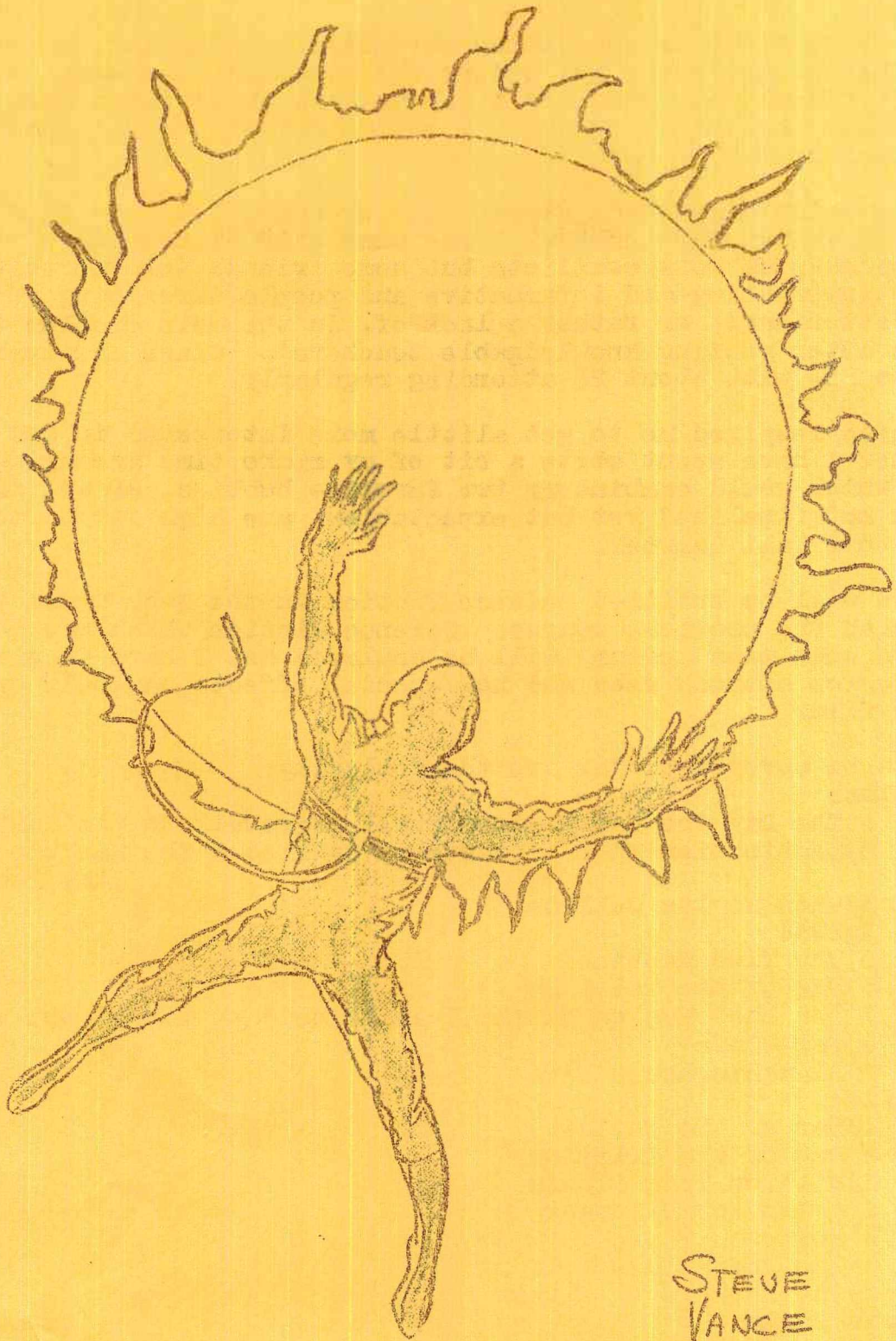
- 1) The Day the Earth Stood Still (Farewell to the Master)
- 2) Destination Moon (Rocketship Galileo & The Man Who Sold the Moon)
- 3) When Worlds Collide
- 4) 1984
- 5) The Time Machine
- 6) Day of the Triffids
- 7) The Last Man on Earth (I Am Legend) or War of the Worlds
- 8) Fail-Safe
- 9) Slaughterhouse Five

B) Radio:

- 1) War of the Worlds
- 2) Day of the Triffids
- 3) Million Year Picnic
- 4) A Gun For Dinosaur
- 5) Hostess
- 6) The Roads Must Roll
- 7) The Fetters of Mirsk

C) Comic Books:

- 1) War of the Worlds
- 2) A Gun For Dinosaur
- 3) The Invisible Man
- 4) The Time Machine
- 5) Destination Moon
- 6) Farewell to the Master



STEVE
VANCE

As this is the first course of this type that I am running, I will be experimenting as I go along. I would appreciate any advice or suggestions you might have. And if you know anyone who is running a SF course (of any type), I would appreciate his address so that I could ask about the course. I understand that someone put out a list of SF courses in the U.S. but that is all I know about it. Can anyone tell me who it was and where I can get a copy and cost?

MORE MEANDERINGS:

Last week I got a part-time job at the FSU library in their mass media section. Actually, it is called the Listening/Viewing Section but I don't care for the name; it's juvenile. If college students don't know that mass media means audio and video tapes, slides, etc., then they should not be in college.

My job consists of handing out tapes and equipment, showing people how to use the equipment and making minor repairs. It's fairly easy and during the summer not many people come to the library.

In the section, we have tapes for a lot of classes and it appears as if I am going to broaden my education. Being so slow this summer, my boss suggested that I become familiar with the materials we have as long as I paid attention to customers. So far, I have taken classes in four different courses from the library, music, biology, library science and history.

This zine has been printed in ditto and rather old masters at that so I apologize in advance for any problems. Future issues will be mimeo on my new used mimeograph. I recently bought an A.B. Dick 418 but I have to clean it and learn how to use it by practice as I don't have any instructions or repair manual. If any of you have ever used a 418 or similar machine, suggestions are requested or I'll buy an old manual.

OPINIONS AND MISINTERPRETATIONS:

I have been doing more SF reading lately than I have in months. Trying to get some of the backlog of books down a bit (I've got two boxes full).

I read Delaney's Pallad of Beta-2, Norton's The X Factor, Charonneau's Corpus Earthling, Schmitz's Agent of Vega, Carter's Imaginary Worlds, Brackett's Sword of Rhiannon, Tolkien's The Hobbit and Geis' Raw Meat in the last two weeks. Surprisingly, there wasn't a really bad book in the bunch and all were fairly entertaining.

The least of the books was Agent of Vega. Entertaining space opera though it was, it just barely kept its continuity through each story, let alone the entire collection.

My main gripe about the book is that often I would find myself at the end of a paragraph with the hero thinking that he was about to punish the villain. Then after a short blank space, or sometimes no space, a new paragraph of caution or questioning would. "Is our hero getting cold feet?", I ask myself. It is not until three or four paragraphs later that we find out it is some one else.

It was annoying but Schmitz writes such enjoyable supermen and superwomen james bond type characters that the adventure overcame the technical flaws, although just barely.

(I imagine some of you are wondering why the change of type in mid-zine. Well, my 40 year old Remington portable just tied itself up with its own ribbon so I'm using Rich Small's IBM. Rich is a local fan who should be in SAPS soon.)

I must admit to a black mark on my SF character. I have never managed to read The Lord of the Rings trilogy. I've never been able to get past volume one, but I've finished it three times. The reason isn't that I don't like fantasy because I do. I've read about 20 books in Ballantine's Adult Fantasy Series plus many others. Some other time I'll explain about the LotR. This is about The Hobbit.

Until last week I had never read The Hobbit either! I finally started and finished it in two days and I found it a fun book. I was surprised in how Tolkien managed to keep the book simple enough for children yet complex and complicated enough for an adult to be entertained (ego forces me to classify myself in the latter category). Only three other writers come immediately to mind who have also managed this feat, Andre Norton, Robert Heinlein and Joseph Altschuler (spelling?).

The Hobbit captivated me as it seems to have done to so many others. The last fantasy books to do that were Anderson's The Broken Sword and Dunsany's The King of Elfland's Daughter when they were reprinted by Ballantine.

While not having any special technical virtuosity, the book's simple, almost lackadaisical, tempo fits its subject perfectly. It has gone on my shelf next to the greatest fantasy, A Thousand And One Nights; I regard it that highly.

Jumping from The Hobbit to pornography might be blasphemous but...

Richard E. Geis, the publisher of PSYCHOTIC aka SFR and RICHARD E. GEIS aka THE ALIEN CRITIC, is also a writer, though, until now, only

of sex books.

A few years ago he mentioned one of his pseudonyms and I picked up a book about a girl who wanted to be free of her restrictive parents and she ran off with some bum who treated her badly and she learned the error of her ways. The book wasn't very explicit but it was very bad. At the time I figured Geis for a good fan writer, bad porno writer and vowed off his porn.

At LACON, I found some used Essex House porno/SF. Having read two of Farmer's books for the same publisher, I picked up a few. One was Geis's Raw Meat with his own name. Using his own name seemed a good omen so I read the book.

It is set in a world where conformity is a necessity, where all your frustrations, violent, sexual, financial, etc., but one are relieved in a tank in which you place yourself totally surrounded by fluid which together with a headset connected with a tape makes dreams real. Most of the dreams are sexual which is how the book fits into the porno category. Example, the "hero" has a dream in which he has a woman perform fellation on him and he has a giant penis with hinges in it so that it can go down her throat more easily.

Still, the explicit sex is only incidental to the story. There would be no problem to take the sex out and replace it with some other frustration. The story would not be badly damaged. Geis's style is more like his fluid sometimes cynical writing in his fanzines. Much better than the first book I read.

If you care to read science fiction in guise of pornography, Raw Meat is a good book to read. It is much better than Farmer's Image of the Beast or Blown. For fans, Blown is interesting because Ackerman is one of the lead characters.

Most surprising of the books, quality-wise was Charbonneau's Corpus Earthling. A number of years ago I read his The Sentinel Stars and, if ~~my~~ memory serves, I found it a complex but sensitive story of outcasts from another conformity city.

Somehow I never read another of his books. Corpus Earthling has been on the shelf for two years but the title, cover and cover blurbs all turned me off. I KNOW THAT THE PACKAGE MEANS NOTHING but it doesn't help. I wonder how many good books languish on shelves because a marketing man blew it.

Finally conquering my impulses, I started the book. My first impressions seemed to be confirmed. At the start it is typical "lonely telepath who overhears' aliens planning to overcome the earth". Bad, but it gets better. Charbonneau gets the hero to doubting his own sanity but still attempting to overcome his emotions and doubts and trying to find the aliens. It is not as good as The Sentinel Stars but it is fairly good. This might be an early book; it feels like it.

The Delany, Brackett and Norton books were all typically good but the D Ballad of Beta-2 was extremely good.

Yellow Banana #1, July 5, 1973,
is typed by Richard Small at 117
South Meridian St. #3, Tallahassee,
Florida, 32301. For Saps #105

*****Richall Press #43*****

Hello. This is being franked in by Joed (I hope) who will be a new member of Saps with this mailing (he hopes). Because I procrastinated a wee bit, I wound up somewhat in back of Joed on the waitlist, however within a short period I hope to be invited in to Saps.

Thanks to some money that I sent Doreen, I was able to read Saps mailings #101-103, and I enjoyed them all. I wish I had the time to comment on all of the individual contributions that deserved comment, but there were so many that it would take me several pages and then I'd still have more to comment on. And in this little effort of a page or two, I'd have to drastically cut back on my comments and abridge them a great deal, if I was going to say all that I had intended. So mailing comments, for the time being, will be forgone by myself, though I rather suspect that in my next contribution, I will concentrate on them a lot.

At the present time, I don't know too many SAPS, though I must admit that I would like to. Perhaps in time, via the printed page, we will become better acquainted. I certainly hope so. I do know a few of you however and to these few (Don Markstein, Guy Lillian, Wally Stoelting, Aljo Svoboda) I'd like to say 'hi'. The rest of you I hope to get toknow before too long.

A little about myself may be in order (and perhaps if I do a bio now, I won't repeat myself at some time in the future). I was a student at Florida State University in Tallahassee, until June, 1972 when I graduated. As of yet I have still to find a permanent steady well-paying job, but I'm hopeful non-the-less and in the meantime I have two part-time jobs which manage to keep me busy. I am interested in comics, some science fiction (it varies), sword and Sorcery, fanzines, apas and records. At one time I collected coins and stamps, but after finding that one could not read a coin or stamp disposed of these collections and concentrated on more literate hobbies. Not that I have anything against these hobbies (at times considering the amount of books and comics I have accumulated, I sometimes wish I had remained with them), I don't. I just feel more at ease with comics, books and records, which seem to supply more in aesthetic values than coins or stamps did.

Oh, it seems that I forgot to mention another of my hobbies...that of starting fanzines with the word 'Yellow' in the title. Yellow Banana is the fourth one to be so titled and by no means the last. I may, in the future, treat you to a couple of my comic strips. However, it will probably be a while before I do so, and they might not turn out to be as much of a 'treat' as you would think. I'm sure that Joed (who has seen almost all of them) will have something to say and that his comments about them might not be the most kind things one would expect. That doesn't trouble me too much...they're fun to do and (I would like to think) have some merit and are not really all that bad. I do note that not many contributions in Saps seem to have comics and I wouldn't want to put anything in that was not welcome, so I'll wait a while before doing any in all likelihood.

Well, I seem to be running low on paper for this page and I really don't have the time to do another page (much as I would like to). Joed wants to get his zine run off tonight and it will have to go in the mail quite soon to make the deadline. Until next...